LOCAL, 1B

Hospitals want quick test result

SPORTS, 1C

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Florida bars still open as virus spreads

Experts: State failing to act aggressively enough to slow COVID-19 progression

BY DAVID FLESHLER

As other states and countries have all but shut down, Florida has failed to act aggressively enough to slow the spread of the coronavirus, especially by allowing bars and restaurants to remain open, some experts said Monday.

Bar and restaurants across South Florida continue to operate, some with restrictions, while states such as Maryland, Ohio and Illinois have ordered them to close entirely.

Fort Lauderdale and Miami Beach on Sunday closed beaches but allowed restaurants to remain open until 10 p.m. Hollywood and Delray Beach took similar action Monday, although Delray's beach remains open.

The limited restrictions came despite comments Monday from President Donald Trump, who urged all older Americans to stay home and everyone to end unnecessary travel, avoid crowds and stop eating at restaurants.

Late Monday afternoon, Gov. Ron DeSantis said Florida may announce further restrictions Tuesday, particularly on bars. He said the state was weighing new advice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which said Americans should not gather in groups of 10 or more people, a significant switch from its earlier recommendation of 50 people.

Dr. Jose Szapocznik, a nationally known epidemiologist at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, said the restrictions imposed in Florida, Fort Lauderdale and Miami Beach would have a minimal effect on the spread of the disease.

"Are we going to be less infectious at 2 in the afternoon than at 2 in the morning? That doesn't make any sense to me," he said. "People who are infectious are still going to be out quite a few hours a day. So I think

See VIRUS, 11A

JOHN MCCALL/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

Medical personnel use swabs Monday at a drive-through service for coronavirus testing in West Palm Beach. The site is the first to open in South Florida for limited testing, but plans are in motion for other locations. **10A**

MORE COVERAGE

INSIDE: Trump urges older Americans to stay home and tells everyone to avoid crowded areas and eating out. **6A**

INSIDE: Researchers in Seattle give the first shots of an experimental virus vaccine to healthy volunteers. **7A**

INSIDE: In the worldwide fight against coronavirus, Spain emerges as new hot spot in spread of contagion. **8A**

LOCAL: Florida businesses are issuing pleas for financial help, laying off workers and temporarily closing. **1B**

LOCAL: A message to Sun Sentinel readers from Publisher Nancy Meyer on measures taken to ensure safety. **1B**

LOCAL: Mayo: I can't see my ailing mother because of coronavirus. My head understands, but my heart aches. **1B**

Voting will go on in Florida

Trump announces there is no need to postpone elections

BY ANTHONY MAN

Even as novel coronavirus caused widespread cancellations and dramatic changes in the way people live and work — and the way candidates conduct their campaigns — voting in Florida's presidential primary will proceed on Tuesday.

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. as usual, but state and local elections officials have made some changes to mitigate any potential problems.

"We're dealing with this in a thoughtful way. But we're not going to panic. The fact of the matter is these things can be done in ways where you're not going to have large crowds," Gov. Ron DeSantis said at a news conference in Tallahassee.

"You can do it in a way that protects people. I know the folks working the elections are working really hard to protect folks," he said. "At the same time, I think when you go and cancel that, the signal that sends is somehow we're paralyzed. I don't think that's the case. We're taking prudent steps."

Effect on turnout

Even though the election is going on as scheduled, primary day turnout is likely to take a hit.

So far, there's more interest among Democrats in their presidential primary 2020 than in 2016.

See VOTING, 12A

Shoppers hoard, stores scramble to keep up

BY PHILLIP VALYS

Supermarkets are scrambling to keep up with unprecedented levels of consumer hoarding, while many South Florida restaurants are shutting down temporarily.

But we need to eat — even during a global pandemic. Is South Florida on the verge of a food shortage?

The short answer: No. There's still plenty of food, despite empty grocery shelves as consumers stockpile everything from toilet paper to water. Delivery trucks are still rumbling day and night.

At the sprawling Publix Distribution Center in Deerfield Beach Monday evening, dozens of tractor-trailers were backed into loading bays as other trucks moved around the property. At the front gate, long

See STORES, 12A

BEN CRANDELL/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

Pasta shelves are empty Monday at the Winn Dixie in Victoria Park Shoppes in downtown Fort Lauderdale.

Where's leadership when nation needs it?

Dave Hyde

Anyone doubting America faces a big health crisis got a dose of reality on Monday:

The U.S. Senate actually worked through a scheduled, weeklong recess.

Now, perhaps, our federal politicians can solve the lack of unified and responsible leadership that's exacerbating this novel coronavirus pandemic. Look around you at the chaotic manner we're handling a national health issue.

Our beaches are closed. Our restaurants are open.

Sports games are gone. Casinos tables are busy.

The mayor of San Francisco banned gatherings of 100 or more people, the mayor of Monroe County limited them in the Keys to 250 people and the mayor of Miami-Dade is setting policy while videoing updates after testing positive for the coronavirus.

The truest lesson of this pandemic, thus far, is how in a national vacuum of leadership every community invents their own ideas for what to do. Every business too.

And then there's the

See HYDE, 11A

YOUR NATION, YOUR WORLD

Captives outsmart terrorist group
Women taken prisoner are resisting, foiling Boko Haram's plans in quiet and often unheralded ways. **3A**

Man sentenced for mass killing
A Japanese court ruled a former care home employee will hang for stabbing to death 19 disabled people. **3A**

Syrians in Idlib fear end is nearing
Disastrous conflict is potentially on the horizon in Idlib, Syria, the last urban area under opposition control. **4A**

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